



# The Weekly Page

VOLUME 10 ISSUE 4

FEBRUARY 7, 2014

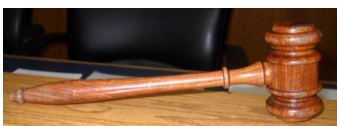
## Pages Learn About Legislature



### Big Ideas in Government

Throughout the week pages grappled with understanding the three “big ideas” for a representative government: governing is a complex process, successful democracies rely on responsible citizens, and government affects our life every day. As they participated in daily discussions, listened to guest speakers, and proposed bills in mock committee hearings, their understanding around the concepts deepened. On Friday, they wrote about one of the big ideas to demonstrate the depth of their new knowledge.

### Pages write bills, hold mock hearings



During the first three days of their week, pages worked individually or in small groups to write bills designed to address issues which were relevant to

them and the state. They discussed the criteria for making a legislative solution work before selecting issues to research and develop. Then they used bill templates on class computers to formulate official-looking documents in preparation for mock committee hearings on Thursday. Topics for policy bills included gun violence, plastic bag pollution, welfare fraud and smoking in cars. Pages read their bills and class “committee members,” governed by the rules of parliamentary procedure, debated the pros and cons of the proposals. A “DO PASS” or “DO NOT PASS” recommendation was then voted upon.

### Crackdown on Artificial Additives

Olympia – House Bill 2624 was introduced yesterday by Representatives Dawson Palmer and Kellan Miller. “This bill addresses the issue of harmful food additives and will decrease the levels of obesity and increase the general health of Washingtonians,” said Rep. Miller. This bill requires food manufacturers to indicate on the front of the package the presence of trans fats, refined grains, and high fructose corn syrup if these additives are present in the product and the amount of given additives in the product. It also mandates that the amount of the additives mentioned shall not exceed a certain percentage of the product’s weight.



Watch us live at [TVW.org](http://TVW.org)

Search for Page School in the Archives to watch yourself in the committee hearings.

### Wolves Killing Calves



Olympia – Senate Bill 5353 was introduced yesterday by Senators Christopher Basile and Andrew Brandt. “This bill addresses the issue of wolves killing farmers’ livestock in Eastern Washington. It will propose a way to keep wolves

from killing livestock without killing the wolves themselves,” said Sen. Christopher Basile and Andrew Brandt. In order to utterly protect calves and livestock this bill will give farmers a safe way to keep wolves off their property without having to kill them. If a farmer calls in to the State, and can prove that they have wolves killing their livestock, then the state will send in a free Nite-Guard animal control system. Wolves kill up to a calf a day and with this bill we will prevent the death of both the wolves and the animals!

### Plastic Problem

Olympia – Yesterday, Representatives Angelea Wirstrom and Zach Wanager introduced House Bill 1516, which addresses the issue of plastic bag pollution. “The bill is a good one because it reduces pollution caused by plastic bag waste,” said Rep. Wirstrom. This bill will



impose a five cent tax on plastic bags used in grocery and retail stores. The main point is to give people an incentive to choose to be more environmentally friendly. If the bill is passed it will be a step to better protecting the environment.

### Student Suicide Prevention Program

Olympia—Senate Bill 5678 was introduced yesterday by Senators Zenaida Samano and Matthew Moeller. “This bill addresses the issue of student suicide and will reduce teen suicides statewide,” said Sen. Samano. This bill will introduce a volunteer mentor program established by the state in which troubled teens may go to an adult for emotional support. There will be small group help sessions with up to five individual students and a mentor. “I’ve seen so many people leave because of student suicide and I don’t want to see another one leave. That is why I strive so hard to help them,” said Sen. Samano.



### Deadly Smoke

Olympia – Yesterday, Representative Rylee Eberle introduced House Bill 3333, which addresses the issue of second-hand smoking. “The bill is a good one because it will not only make the youth safer, but also the offender safer,” Rep. Eberle. Studies show that 1 out of



5 students in the United States in middle and high school are still exposed to this second-hand toxins. Second-hand smoking also increases your chances of getting lung diseases, various types of cancers, asthma, heart diseases, and sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS) by 10 times the regular risk.

### Parlez-vous français? Si!

Olympia – House Bill 1529 was introduced yesterday by Representatives Megan Johnston and Waverly Shreffler. “This bill addresses the issue of early childhood foreign language education and will ensure that foreign language education begins at a young age,” said Rep. Johnston. Currently, foreign language



is not required in basic elementary education or required for High School graduation in Washington State. Bill 1529 would mandate the hiring of trained foreign language teachers to work in public elementary schools on a rotational basis. Funding for this will be found from pre-existing school funds split between schools of employment.

### Raining Cats and Dogs

Olympia – Senate Bill 5000 was introduced yesterday by Senators Brendan Ryder, Bethany Olson, and Amanda Sanderson. “This bill addresses the issue of animal abandonment and will require pet owners to register all their pets. If the owner is found guilty of abandonment then a \$2,500 fine will be paid,” said Sen. Ryder. Out of the 6314 cats and dogs taken to animal shelters each year 748 are unhealthy and untreatable. Out of the 748 cats and dogs who are unhealthy or untreatable, 422 owners request euthanasia.





## EBT: Excessive Use of Welfare Cards

Olympia – Senate Bill 7999 was introduced yesterday by Senators Wynne Lee and Emily Christopher. “This bill addresses the issue of the fraudulent use of EBT cards and will resolve this use by creating stricter restrictions on its uses, employ a group to enforce these propositions, and by posing higher security on the cards, such as an identification system,” said Sen. Lee. Exploration finds that these EBT cards have been used at casinos, card rooms, and for alcohol and unnecessary drugs. Some of these cards are even sold for money on sites like Craigslist. While the EBT card system has been created to benefit the recipient as money to buy food, and other sustenance, it has been abused by many of the recipients. . If this new bill is passed, the Washington government will be able to save millions of dollars that are currently being squandered by recipients who use the cards for immoral purposes.



## Investing in the Future

Olympia – House Bill 2014 was introduced yesterday by Representatives Jonathan Sedy, Lydia Sedy, and Abby Brandt.

“This bill addresses the issue of greenhouse gasses and will remove sales tax on Energy Star products,” said Rep. Jonathan Sedy. Energy use in homes, buildings, and industries account for two thirds of green house gas emissions in the United States. Our Representatives seek to encourage individuals and businesses to invest in the future of our state by seeking out more environmentally friendly products. In order to compensate for possibly lost revenue, the bill requires a .02% tax increase on non-Energy Star products.



## Assault Weapons: What and Why



Olympia – Senate Bill 5289 was introduced yesterday by Senator Alejandro Lopez. “This bill addresses the issue of defining the term "assault weapons" and will create a definition of 'assault weapons' based on specific criteria that will serve as the benchmark for the term's usage in legal or legislative settings,” said

Sen. Lopez. The bill provides definitions of assault weapons used in California and New York, highlighting differences between the two as a demonstration of the lack of country-wide consensus on this topic. It also details aspects of the 1994 Federal Assault Weapons Ban, describing how its definition of an assault weapon differs yet again from the definitions used by California and New York. The bill proceeds to propose a definition of the term "assault weapon" to be used in legislative and legal situations, cutting down on the large range of penalties that possession of an "assault weapon" can incur without a clear definition.

## Shoot! Another requirement for gun shows!



Olympia – Yesterday, Senators Teo Le and Nicholas Bartels introduced Senate Bill 7279, which addresses the issue of gun restrictions concerning mentally ill. “The bill is a good one because it would try and reduce the guns

bought by those with mental illness, said,” Sen. Teo Le. According to "Guide to Mass Shootings in America", a majority of the mass shootings that occurred happened because of a mentally ill person. On July 20, 2012 James Eagan Holmes shot and killed twelve people at a century movie theater in Aurora Colorado. After this event had occurred, he was hospitalized after attempting suicide several times while in jail in November 2012. He allegedly acquired many of his guns from gun shows that didn't require a background check. Researchers proved that mentally ill planned before they committed the act of mass murder and witnesses from the mass murders said they were calm. Out of 100,000 citizens of Washington, 12,508 guns were bought.

## Page School on the web

The Page School has its own web site. You can find us at: <http://www.leg.wa.gov/PageSchool> This newsletter has been posted there.

## Children Being Charged As Adults

Olympia – Yesterday Senators De’Chanelle, Kalulu-Finau, and Anna Kelly introduced Senate Bill 7000, which addresses the issue of charging juveniles as adults. “The bill is a good one because it will keep juveniles safe from the risks of getting involved with the adult criminal court. Getting involved with the adult criminal court may lead to the juvenile re-offending due to their surroundings of negative influences,” said Sen. Kelly. Youth tried in the adult criminal court are at higher risk of death and/or assault in adult jails.

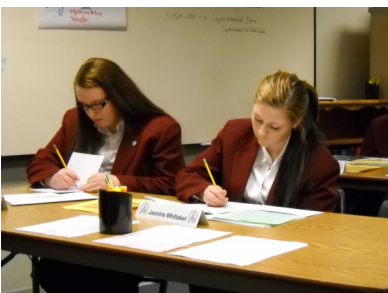


## Bill for clean air

Olympia – House Bill 1579 was introduced yesterday by Representative Matthew Hallahan. “This bill addresses the issue of carbon emissions and will reduce fossil fuel consumption in the State of Washington,” said Rep. Hallahan. This bill intends to raise the gasoline tax while offering income tax reductions to citizens working from home. It will also impose a carbon tax on factories. These measures will encourage a switch to clean energy, as well as keeping cars off the road when possible.



## Welfare EBT Cards Misused



Olympia – Senate Bill 5962 was introduced yesterday by Senators Jasmine Whittaker, and Emily Sanderson. “This bill addresses the issue of welfare recipients and will end the miss use of the EBT cards,” said Sen. Whit-

taker. Many people today are finding ways around the requirements of the EBT cards. Some sell these cards and others withdraw the cash using almost any ATM. People withdrawing the cash are often using these cards to gamble.

## DNA Samples Save People

Olympia—Senate Bill 6000 was introduced yesterday by Senators Alex Balkan and Kennedy Doty. “This bill addresses the issue of the death penalty and will only be used on those who are truly guilty,” said Sen. Balkan. The bill will protect the criminally accused by getting a DNA sample in order to determine who is truly guilty. Studies show in Florida that by getting these samples, twenty-two people have been exonerated. “This bill is going to be a huge addition to our justice system. Not only will it save us money, but it will also save the lives of many innocent people,” explained Sen. Doty.



## Cell Phones Kill



Olympia – Senate Bill 5606 was introduced yesterday by Senators Luke Griffith and Matthew McKinley. “This bill addresses the issue of cell phone use while driving,” said Sen. Griffith. This bill intends to eliminate any hand held cell phone use while driving

including calls using speaker phones except in the instance of operating an emergency vehicle, reporting illegal activity, or summoning emergency help to prevent injury to a person or property. This will greatly help to keep our roads a safe place for our Washington families,” stated Sen. McKinley.

## Competitive edge results in *Jeopardy* win

On Friday pages tested their knowledge of the Legislative process in a spirited game of *Jeopardy*. Winning teams were awarded certificates and brightly colored stickers that they wore proudly for the rest of the day.





## Wolves Killing Livestock



Olympia – House Bill 1234 was introduced yesterday by Representatives Leah Swannack, Rebecca Schallon, and Jessica Schallon. “This bill addresses the issue of wolves killing livestock and will re-

move the grey wolves from the endangered species list in Eastern Washington,” said Rep. Swannack. The grey wolves are well established in Eastern Washington and have started to become a hazard to the health and well-being of livestock. There is not enough money for compensation to cattle ranchers and some may soon go out of business due to the loss of profits from their cattle or sheep. The proposed bill states that the ranchers will be allowed to prevent livestock harassment, and protect them from wolves using all control methods including lethal methods if absolutely necessary to protect their livelihood.

## Guest Speakers Visit Page School



Parks Commissioner Joe Taller, Secretary of the Senate Hunter Goodman and Superintendent of Public Instruction Randy Dorn joined the pages during classes on Wednesday. Each shared insightful information in regards to the legislative process in Washington State. Pages were able to interact with these guests by asking questions and sharing their own views in response to the speaker’s questions.

## Experienced Teachers



Sharon Heath is in her first year as the Page School teacher; however, she is definitely not new to the Washington Legislature having worked nearly 20 years for the Legislature’s computer support agency. She has also earned a Master’s in Education and has taught middle school as well as college students.

Leo O’Leary has been teaching and coaching in and around Olympia for the past ten years and is in his third session as a Page School teacher. “I really like the fact that I can help kids make their dreams come true through both education and athletics,” he said as he introduced himself on Monday.

Sharon and Leo are also devoted Seahawks fans having cheered on the team since their very first days in the old Kingdome. Sharon has attended at least one home game every year and Leo attended the game that set the world record for crowd noise. Go Hawks!!!



## Page Program over 120-years-old

The Legislative page program has been in existence since 1891. This photo is of pages who served in past years. The first female page served in 1937. In the past, pages were required to do ironing and cleaning for members. Page duties today are much more professional and include delivering campus correspondence, helping with mailings in legislative offices, and handing out documents on the floor of the Senate and House.

